

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 further comprising a means for reversibly attaching to a helmet or a cap thereby forming a zone of unbroken neurological protection from the tip of the head of the wearer to middle of shoulder blades.

5. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the device is integrally molded to a helmet thereby forming a zone of unbroken neurological protection from the tip of the head of the wearer to middle of shoulder blades.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the second substrate comprises a plurality of reversibly deformable substrates.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein all the first substrate, the second substrate, and the straps are radio-translucent.

9. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the first substrate is defined by an arcuate outer shell overlaying a cushioning substrate.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the second substrate further comprises reversibly deformable material which is integrally molded with said first substrate.

11. (Previously Presented) A device to protect the neck and the base of the skull of a person while allowing unimpeded motion of the person's head, either side to side or front-to-back, the device comprising:

a) a free-hanging first impact-resistant and physical shock resistant pliable substrate whereby said substrate encircles an extended portion of the back of the person's neck and wherein said substrate hangs downwardly from under any head covering of the person to approximately the person's first thoracic vertebra where it ends in a free-hanging, unfastened depending end, forming a zone of unbroken neurological protection along the back of the neck;

b) a reversibly deformable second substrate is juxtaposed in proximity to said first substrate and wherein said second substrate is adapted to contact the wearer at multiple and distinct locations thereby distributing force of any impact to the first substrate between the multiple and distinct contact locations; the second substrate including a means for regulating fluid flow through the second substrate; and

c) straps extending from said first substrate and comprising means allowing closure of the straps around a ventral region of the neck wherein the closure of the straps results in the juxtaposition of a rigid planar substrate overlying the person's trachea, wherein the planar substrate is attached to one of said straps.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the first substrate and the second substrate are integrally molded to each other.

13–20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein at least a portion of said first and second substrates extend along at least a portion of a dorsal surface of the person's neck.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the impact-resistant pliable substrate is shaped as a removable shield used in combination with, and reversibly attached to a protective headwear to confer uninterrupted protection from top of a wearer's head to below the wearer's seventh vertebrae.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the straps include a detachable tracheal shield to facilitate access to the ventral region of the wearer's neck.

26. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 11 wherein the second substrate comprises reversibly deformable substrates only on the edges of the outer substrate.

27. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 11 wherein the straps include a detachable tracheal shield to facilitate access to the neck ventral region.

28. (Cancelled)